



# Standards & Assessment NOTES

California Department of Education  
Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 2004

## Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

### STAR Program Reauthorized

On August 16, Governor Schwarzenegger signed legislation reauthorizing the STAR Program through January 1, 2011. The new law, taking effect January 1, 2005, makes the following changes to the program:

- Reauthorizes the program for grades three through eleven through January 1, 2011.
- Reauthorizes grade two testing through January 1, 2008.
- Requires administering the California Achievement Tests, Sixth Edition Survey (CAT/6 Survey) only in grades three and seven beginning in spring 2005.
- Allows grade eleven students to request that their test results be released to post secondary educational institutions.
- Allows schools to prepare students for statewide tests using instructional materials provided by the California Department of Education (CDE), if the instructional materials are embedded in an instructional program that is intended to improve student learning. This allows schools to use the California Standards Test (CST) released questions in accordance with the "Guidelines on Academic Preparation for State Assessments."
- Requires CDE to develop and/or adopt primary language assessments that are aligned to the state academic content standards.

## Certification of Compliance and Notification of Receipt of Contractor Reports and Data Files

District STAR coordinators were to complete and submit the "Certification of Compliance" within five days of the completion of testing within the district, and they were to complete the "Notification of Receipt of Contractor Reports and Data Files" on or before August 13. If these forms have not been returned to CDE, please complete and return them immediately.

### Distribution of Student Reports

Districts are required to distribute the color copy of the STAR (CST-CAT/6 Survey or CAPA) Student Report and the SABE/2 Home Report to parents/guardians within 20 working days of when the reports are received in each district. For districts that requested revised CST-CAT/6 Survey Student Reports due to missing zip codes, the 20 day window begins when the revised reports are received.

### Student Report Translation Guides

Guides to help parents and guardians understand the information in the new STAR Student Reports are available in Chinese, English, Hmong, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. A folder with a single copy of each guide was included with the district and school sets of Student Reports. The guides are also available in the Document Library at [www.startest.org](http://www.startest.org).

### 2004 Post-Test Guide

The 2004 Post-Test Guide is available in the Document Library at [www.startest.org](http://www.startest.org).

**Corrections for 2004 CST-CAT/6 Survey Data**

The date to submit the "Request to Correct 2004 CST-CAT/6 Survey or CAPA Demographic Data" form to ETS has been extended to October 15. The form may be faxed to (800) 541-8455. The last day for districts to submit any data corrections is October 29.

District STAR coordinators should contact their STAR Technical Assistance Center (TAC) representatives at (800) 955-2954 to request the appropriate form(s) and directions to do any of the following:

- Correct student demographic data.
- Correct marking for the test taken and request rescoring for grade eight through eleven mathematics CSTs or grade nine through eleven science CSTs.
- Request hand-scoring of any multiple-choice test or rescoring of Grade 4 or 7 Writing Applications Standards components.

**2004 Unmatched Reports**

Districts received unmatched reports for grade two and three CST and CAT/6 Survey results and for grade four and seven multiple-choice and writing results. These reports are for district information. Districts may match the student records through the data correction process, but doing so will not change student, school, or district scores or participation rates. Unmatched records have no effect on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or Academic Performance Index (API) calculations.

**2005 Test Dates**

All test dates for the 2004-05 school year are available under Calendars at [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

**2005 Changes for Student Demographic Data**

The 2005 Pre-Identification (Pre-ID) File Layout is available at

[www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/pid.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/pid.asp). The following substantive changes have been made for the 2005 STAR Program data collection:

- "Other" and "None" have been added to the programs for English learners.
- "English learners enrolled" requires the date on which each student enrolled (ccyymmdd).
- "R-FEP date reclassified" requires the reclassification date (ccyymmdd).

**Grade Eight and Ten Science Field Tests**

The spring 2005 tests will include field tests for grade eight and ten science tests. The test blueprints are available at [www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sr/blueprints.asp). The science field tests will be included in the CST test booklets for these two grades. Grade ten students who take biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, or one of the four integrated/coordinated science courses between the 2004 summer session and the end of the 2004-05 school year are required to complete the grade ten science field test in addition to taking an end-of-course CST.

**More Information . . .**

For more information and/or questions regarding the STAR Program, contact the California Department of Education at [STAR@cde.ca.gov](mailto:STAR@cde.ca.gov) (e-mail) or at (916) 445-8765 (phone).